

## October 2009 Weather in Review

October 2009 continued the trend from September with more rain than usual across South Central Texas, except for the west part of the area from Del Rio to near Eagle Pass and east to parts of Kinney and northern Maverick Counties, where below normal rainfall was observed. Several middle latitude rain making weather systems coming from the west and northwest, with their associated cold fronts, brought widespread rains to South Central Texas. These fall rain making weather systems linked with the usual Gulf moisture, and additional high level moisture from the Eastern Pacific. The links with additional high level moisture from Eastern Pacific included moisture from decaying Eastern Pacific Tropical Cyclones southwest of South Central Texas with Olaf on October 3rd and 4th, and with Rick on October 21st and 22nd. The October 2009 middle latitude storm track and its links with Eastern Pacific moisture and decaying Eastern Pacific Tropical Cyclones southwest of the area was similar to October 1975, October 1981, October 1994 and October 1998.

October 2009 began warm and dry and then turned very wet October 3rd and 4th. A heavy rain event, with flash flooding came the weekend of October 3rd and 4th. A fall rain making weather system came from the west and northwest and linked with Eastern Pacific moisture at high levels, including moisture from decaying Tropical Cyclone Olaf. San Antonio had a record daily rainfall for October 4th of 5.42 inches on Sunday morning, October 4th. A brief period of drier and much warmer weather came the 5th to the 8th. A few record warmest daily lows occurred the 7th and 8th. The low of 79 at Austin and San Antonio October 8th was not just a record daily low; it was also a record for the warmest daily low for the month of October at Austin Mabry and tied the record for October at San Antonio. The summerlike conditions came to an end when a cold front followed the night of the 8th to morning of the 9th, bringing more rain. Winds gusted to between 35 and 50 mph in the early morning of Friday October 9th with the cold front. Overrunning clouds with cool daytime highs and light precipitation prevailed the weekend of October 10th and 11th to Monday the 12th. The highs of 59 at Austin and San Antonio the 11th were record low maximums for October 11th. A warming trend followed the 13th to the 15th. On the 15th afternoon highs were in the 90s across South Central Texas, with a few 80s over the northern Hill Country to Georgetown. The high of 99 at Del Rio on the 15th was a record high for October 15th at Del Rio. A cool front the night of the 15th brought much cooler conditions Friday the 16th. After 2 wet weekends, the 3rd weekend of October on Saturday October 17th and Sunday the 18th brought sunny and pleasant days, with clear and cool nights.

After mostly sunny conditions Monday the 19th, clouds increased Tuesday through Tuesday night of October 20th, in advance of another fall rain making weather system and a cold front, that brought widespread rains again to South Central Texas on Wednesday the 21st to the morning of Thursday October 22nd. Like earlier in the month, this weather system linked with moisture from the Eastern Pacific and the remnants of Hurricane Rick to bring widespread rain the afternoon of the 21st through the night and early morning of October 22nd. On the night of October 21st, there was a heavy rain event across parts of Burnet, eastern Llano and northern Blanco Counties. Occasional periods of heavy rain moved over these areas from showers and thunderstorms, producing 6 to around 9 inches of rain. At

Burnet Municipal Airport 6.06 inches of rain fell. One rain gauge near Kingsland picked up 9.25 inches of rain. There was localized flooding in this area and also on Sandy Creek in Llano County. Skies cleared in wake of the cold front Thursday the 22nd, followed by dry fall weather again Friday the 23rd through Saturday October 24th. The clearing trend quickly ended as increasing clouds came during the day of the 25th, in advance of a fast moving disturbance and another cold front, that brought another round of widespread rain the night of the 25th to Monday the 26th. Skies briefly cleared up on Tuesday the 27th, and then clouds increased quickly Wednesday the 28th. The 3rd cold front in a week swept across South Central Texas on Thursday the 29th to bring wind gusts between 35 and 50 mph and scattered showers from the northern Texas Hill Country to the east part of South Central Texas. Temperatures during the day on the 29th dropped quickly in wake of the cold front. Considerable cloudiness the night of the 29th was accompanied by the last wave of light precipitation that left the east part of South Central Texas on Friday morning the 30th. Sunny afternoons and clear, cold nights closed out the month from Friday afternoon the 30th through Saturday the 31st. The coldest lows for the month came the morning of the 31st, as lows fell to the 30s across the Hill Country to around 40 to low 40s across South Central Texas.

October 2009 was the 2nd wettest October at San Antonio, and the 10th wettest month at San Antonio since 1871, with 11.90 inches of rain. It was the 18th wettest October at Austin Mabry since 1856, with 6.88 inches of rain, and the 10th wettest at Austin Bergstrom since 1943, with 6.90 inches of rain. At Del Rio 0.65 inches of rain was observed, well below the average of 2.00 inches for October. In October of 2009 there were six cold frontal systems that moved across South Central Texas. Several warming trends after the cold fronts brought a few summer like days; however, it was not enough to offset the cooler days with the cold fronts, especially in the 2nd half of the month. As a result in the end the average temperature for October of 2009 at most locations was cooler than usual.

The list below shows the wettest Octobers at Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio.

The wettest Octobers at San Antonio since 1871 follow.

1. October 1998 18.07 inches
2. October 2009 11.90 inches
3. October 1994 9.74 inches
4. October 1942 9.56 inches
5. October 2004 9.47 inches

The wettest Octobers at the Austin City Climate location, located at Austin Mabry today, since 1856, follow.

1. October 1925 12.63 inches
2. October 1870 12.54 inches
3. October 1998 12.39 inches
4. October 1960 12.30 inches
5. October 1973 11.11 inches

...

18. October 2009 6.90 inches

The wettest Octobers at Austin Bergstrom since 1943 follow.

1. October 1960 13.08 inches
2. October 1998 12.73 inches
3. October 1973 10.40 inches
4. October 1984 9.30 inches
5. October 1986 and 2002 9.11 inches

...

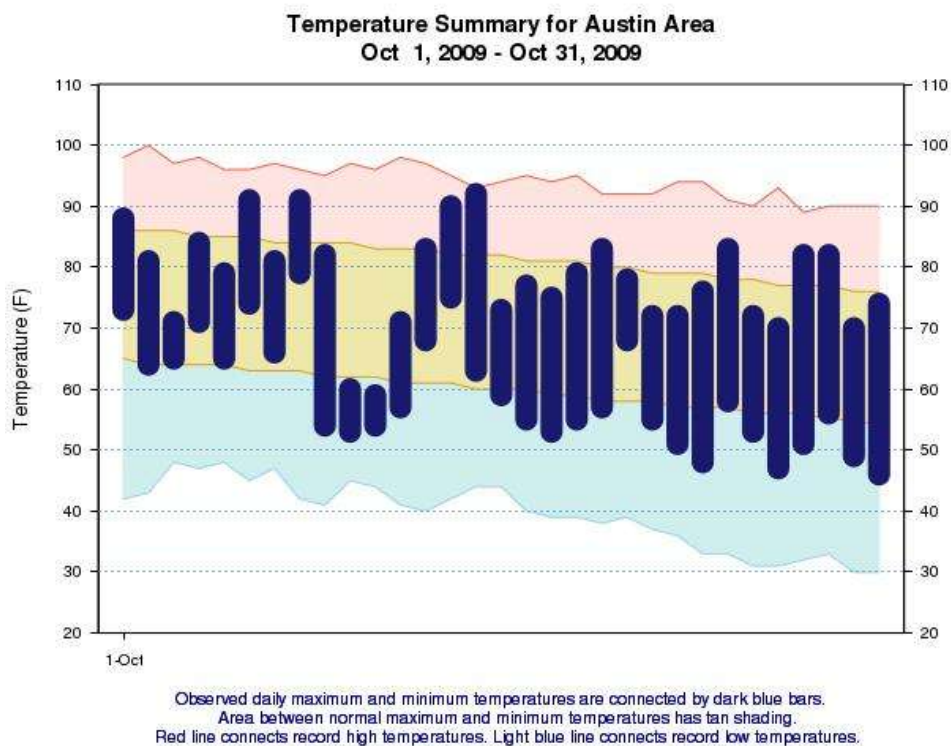
10. October 2009 6.90 inches

Del Rio was west of the heavy rains in October 2009, and had 0.65 inches of rain, well below average for October.

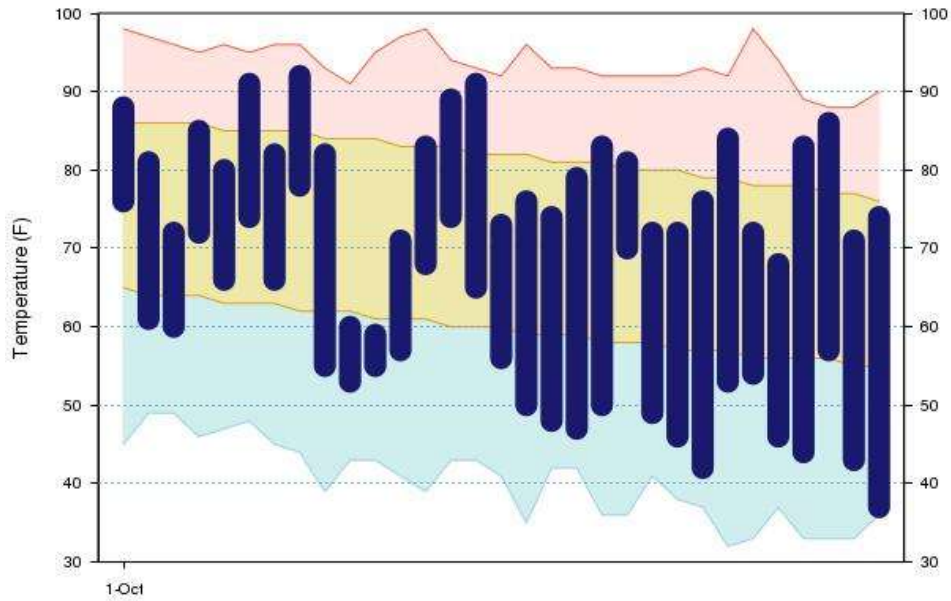
The wettest Octobers at Del Rio since 1906 follow.

1. October 1930 11.69 inches
2. October 1969 11.33 inches
3. October 2005 8.72 inches
4. October 2002 7.40 inches
5. October 1941 7.21 inches

The charts below show daily highs and lows in October 2009 for Austin Mabry, Austin Bergstrom, San Antonio, and Del Rio.

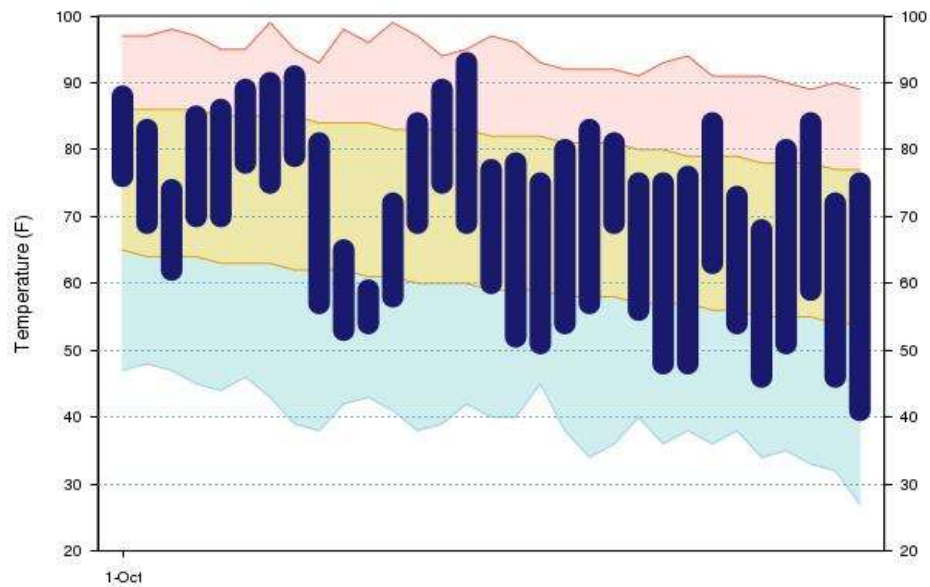


**Temperature Summary for Austin-Bergstrom Airport Area**  
**Oct 1, 2009 - Oct 31, 2009**



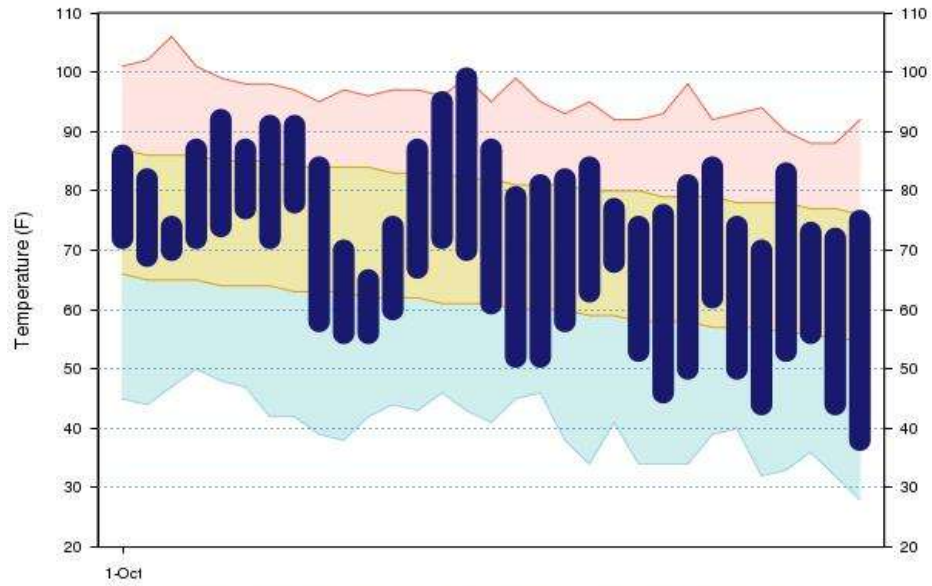
Observed daily maximum and minimum temperatures are connected by dark blue bars.  
 Area between normal maximum and minimum temperatures has tan shading.  
 Red line connects record high temperatures. Light blue line connects record low temperatures.

**Temperature Summary for San Antonio Area**  
**Oct 1, 2009 - Oct 31, 2009**



Observed daily maximum and minimum temperatures are connected by dark blue bars.  
 Area between normal maximum and minimum temperatures has tan shading.  
 Red line connects record high temperatures. Light blue line connects record low temperatures.

Temperature Summary for Del Rio Area  
Oct 1, 2009 - Oct 31, 2009



Observed daily maximum and minimum temperatures are connected by dark blue bars.  
Area between normal maximum and minimum temperatures has tan shading.  
Red line connects record high temperatures. Light blue line connects record low temperatures.

